

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The United Nation proclaimed the Universal Declaration Human Rights in 1978 as Fundamental Freedom for all without distinction to race, sex, language, and religion. The term of human rights is defined by the United States in a policy document in 1978 such as a freedom from arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, torture, unfair trial, cruel and unusual punishment, and invasion of privacy. Human rights includes right to life, right to equal protection, right to human dignity, right to against exploitation, right of child, right to work, right to education, right to disability and more. U.S Constitution embodied a Bill of Rights that adopted after World War II in San Fransisco, June 25, 1945 and ratified by a majority of its signatories in October that year (Kumar, 2003: 44).

Human rights can define as originally conceived as rights and freedom *vis-à-vis* the State and other public authorities (Friedmann and Barak-Erez, 2001:1). The fundamental purpose was protecting the individual against the omnipotent State with its vast powers of detention, expropriation, and censorship. The major function of human rights thus was to mitigate the imbalance between two unequal parties, the public authority and the individual. According to Friedmann and Barak-ErezIn (2001: 1), human rights constitute an integral part of public law. The United Nation Organization detained that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are indivisible and interdependent. The implementation, promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social, and culture rights are should given by equal attention and urgent consideration.

Human rights is also depicted in the work because most of literary work and the society have close relationship; one of them is *Flowers for Algernon* by Daniel Keyes. He has an author of the novels: *Flowers for Algernon* (1959), *The Touch* (1968), *The Fifth Sally* (1980), and *The Asylum Prophecies* (2009). In addition, Keyes has published three non-fiction books: *The Mind of Billy Milligan* (1981), *The Milligan Wars: A True-Story Sequel* (1994), *Unveiling Claudia* (1986). In his memoir, *Algernon, Charlie and I: A Writer's Journey* Daniel Keyes investigates his experiences and events that guide to create *Flowers for Algernon*. *Flowers for Algernon* is one of the work have been made into film. Daniel Keyes is an author who has an idea in describing the character who connected with psychological aspect. Almost of his works have close relation with psychology because he studied psychology and literature, earning his undergraduate and master degrees from Brooklyn College (www.danielkeyesauthor.com, 12-11-1016). He lived in United States where mentally disabled men do not have equal right like today, especially in twenty-first century. The civil rights movement was just focused on equal rights for African American, however disabilities should have equal treatment like others civil.

There are many authors used the phenomena in the society as the inspiration of the work. Novel has purpose for something that addressed to public by the author. *Flowers for Algernon* novel by Daniel Keyes is the most obvious novel, that shows the mentally disabled men who want to be smart. The story started on 3 March and written by first person of progress report of everything that happens to the man named Charlie Gordon, 32 years old who has mentally disabled with IQ of 68 who want to be smarter. He works in Dormers bakery as a janitor where Mr. Donner, the owner, pays him 11 dollars a week. Uncle Herman is a Mr. Dormer's best friend who got Charlie job at Dormers bakery. He had three employ friends named Joe Carp, Frank, and Gimp. He goes to learn reading and writing for slow adult for three times a week in Beekman School where Miss Alice Kinnian held. He lived by

himself after his uncle Herman who use to take care of him and got him a job to be janitor at Dormers Bakery was death. His mother and sister Norma where lived in Brooklyn (Keyes, 1966: 1-6).

Alice Kinnia is a teacher from the school for retarded adults recommended Charlie as a candidate for the experiment. Charlie shows the most enthusiasm to be smarter. Charlie is excited when two scientists, neurosurgeon Dr. Strauss and psychology Professor Nemur are using Charlie as a experiment to their first test of technology for increasing intelligence after they found Norma for permission of the operation. Although they are not sure how the experiment will work on people because they only tried it up on animal. The experiment has been performed on a mouse named Algernon with remarkable results. Charlie is the first human subject. Dr. Strauss said that Charlie should write down what he thinks, remembers, and everything that happened to him in progress report everyday. The progress report started on 3 March until 21 November (Keyes, 1966: 7-21).

Charlie met a doctor named Burt Selden in his first a test. He gives white cards with spilled inkblot on all of them red and black. Burt asks to Charlie to guest the picture but Charlie could not see the picture even he tried very hard. The next test named Thematic Apperception Test that he should make story about the people in the picture but he cannot. Then, Burt took him to Psychology Laboratory where he mazes races against Algernon for preparation for his own surgery. Algernon always wins the race. The operation will increase the IQ. Nemur and Strauss give Charlie a machine that teaches him while he sleeps which helps to bring to the surface his represent memories. Eventually, Charlie is learning skyrocket and his own writing, reading and thinking all improve. He remembers his childhood, the relationship in his family. As his mother wanted him to be normal, if he does a mistake she beats him as punishment. His father sided with him but often gave up on him. His sister Norma was quite and condescending to him when they were children (Keyes, 1966: 22-61).

After Charlie's surgery, he is not smart directly. He thinks that surgery is not working, but someday he easily finishes the maze before Algernon. Then his coworkers ask to Mr. Donner as the owner to fire Charlie to start a new life, and Mr. Donner sadly lets him go. As Charlie's intelligence increases, his progress reports become more sophisticated, with correct spelling and syntax and complex thoughts. In addition to an increased mental intelligence, Charlie experiences an increased emotional intelligence, and he comes to discover that the men he had worked with at the bakery, men who he had formerly considered friends weren't really his friends after all. Charlie also begins to remember his painful childhood. Charlie has felling to Alice Kinnian and take out on couple of dates, but Charlie hallucinates his teenager self-watching them every time he tries to kiss her. Someday he realizes that he no longer loves her because of his intelligence, and only feels gratitude towards her (Keyes, 1966: 62- 70).

Nemur, Strauss, and Burt take Charlie to present at the International Psychological Convention in Chicago. Charlie explains that Nemur treats him as merely a lab specimen and he did not really even consider Charlie a human being before the procedure. Charlie takes Algernon and bring him to New York. He begins living on his own and continuing his studies and research. He met the artist Fay Lillman and strikes up a purely sexual relationship with her. When Algernon shows increasing erratic and injurious behavior he realizes that intelligence is not tempered with human affection means nothing. Charlie finished his research and tittles the Algernon-Gordon Effect, and explains that the mental deterioration hold a direct relationship with the artificial increase in intelligence. He hopes the research will help many people in the future. On November 21, he decides to institutionalize himself and his last wish is for someone to remember to put flowers on Algernon's grave in the backyard (Keyes, 1966: 71-199).

Flowers for Algernon is written by Daniel Keyes. The connection between the reflects several key events in Keyes's own life and his work,

especially equal right for mentally disabled man in twenty-first century (Keyes, 2000). He was transforming what people think about mentally disabled in social, culture and politic with tolerance and understanding in United States. The novel was very received when it was published, and receive good responds. Some of their responds are came from "Making up a Mind" (1966) by Shelby in 1998 and by Ickes-Dunbar in 2004. Making up a Mind conclude that Keyes has extraordinary ability to teach the hearts and minds of readers. Shelby said that progress reports are effective use to tell the story. The critics also touched the novel on the ethical and moral themes. Cheryl Hill states an important point that one critic highlighted one of the difficult lessons that Charlie had to learn: "increased intelligence does not hold the key to positive social interactions, to happiness, or to peace of mind", this reviewer also pointed out how much closer we are to the reality of the book (2004). On the other hand, some parents' community religious leaders declared that they did not want their son to read the book because they found it objectionable. These sections because of references to profanity, sexuality and romantic relationships (Hill, 2004: 9).

This novel has challenged in Florida, Arizona, Virginia, and Georgia. The novel was quickly became a bestseller. It had translated into 27 languages and had published in 30 countries. That year film adaptation released, *Charlie*. It was adapted for television in the drama *The Two Worlds of Charlie Gordon*. It was also a Broadway musical in 1978, *Charlie and Algernon*, and Japanese drama in 2015, *Algernon ni Hanataba wo* (Hill, 2004: 10). The story was success and he was accepting a Hugo Award (one of science fiction's highest honors) for best science fiction novelette of the year. Also it won science fiction's other highest honor, the Nebula Award. That year the story was also reprinted in *The Best from Fantasy and Science Fiction* and in the *Fifth Annual of the Year's Best Science Fiction*. In 1961 it was reprinted in *Best Articles and Stories* and *Literary Cavalcade* (Cheryl Hill, 2004: 4). *Flowers for Algernon* is very interesting to analyze. It gives

big effect to people mind of mentally disabled man and those rights by civil right movement.

Flowers for Algernon is an interesting novel to analyze and discuss. In this analysis, the writer wants to expose the issue of human rights that is reflected in *Flowers for Algernon* novel by Daniel Keyes. Moreover, the writer also wants to find out the reason of the author why he addresses human rights in his work.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher will observe *Flowers for Algernon* novel by using sociological approach. Therefore, the researcher constructs his proposal entitled **HUMAN RIGHTS REFLECTED IN FLOWERS FOR ALGERNON (1966) NOVEL BY DANIEL KEYES: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Problem Statement

Considering the background above, the major problem of this research is how Daniel Keyes describes the effect of *Flowers For Algernon* novel towards mentally disabled man treatment. Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates the research questions as follows:

1. How is human rights depicted in the work?
2. Why did Daniel Keyes address human rights in his work?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To describe how human rights depicted in *Flowers for Algernon* novel.
2. To reveal why the author addresses human rights in *Flowers for Algernon* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing human rights in *Flowers for Algernon* (1966) novel by Daniel Keyes on sociological approach.

E. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give the information, benefits, and contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on *Flowers for Algernon*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to help the present writer to enrich his knowledge dealing by literary work to external elements, especially *Flowers for Algernon* by using sociological approach.

F. Paper Organization

The research paper of ‘Human rights reflected in *Flowers For Algernon* (1966) novel by Daniel Keyes: A Sociological Approach’ is divided in five chapters. The details of the paper organization are, **Chapter one** is introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, and Paper Organization. **Chapter two** is Literature review. It consists of Previous Study and Underlying Theory (Notion of Sociological of Literature, Major Principle of Sociological of Literature, and Notion of Human Right). **Chapter three** is Research Method. It consists of Object of the Research, Types of the Data and the Data Source, Technique of Data Collection, and Technique of Data Analysis. **Chapter four** is Sociological Analysis of Daniel Keyes’ novel *Flowers for Algernon*. **Chapter five** is Conclusion and Suggestion.